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Dismissed in Viet Nam Planning

State Dept. Official Quits

By H. H. SHACKFORD
Senior Howard Staff Writer

Roger Hilsman resigned as Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs last night, in the first major State Department change since President Kennedy's assassination.

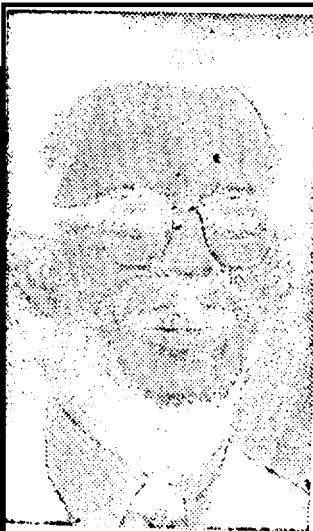
The White House gave as the reason for Mr. Hilsman's departure his desire to return to academic life.

But in fact, there has been Administration dissatisfaction with the way Mr. Hilsman has administered the vital Far Eastern Bureau, and he was annoyed with the decision to remove the critical Viet Nam problem from his jurisdiction.

NAMED

Secretary of State Dean Rusk has named career foreign service officer William H. Sullivan to assume responsibility for Viet Nam and work directly in Mr. Rusk's office, rather than in the Far Eastern secretary's office. Up to now, the Viet Nam task force has worked under Mr. Hilsman's direct supervision.

There was no indication yet who will succeed Mr. Hilsman,



ROGER HILSMAN

altho ultimately Mr. Sullivan may be headed for that job because his stock is high with both State Department and White House officials.

Mr. Hilsman long has had his critics within the Department—even in his previous job as director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. He became Far Eastern Secretary

when Averell Harriman was moved up to be Under Secretary for Political Affairs.

PENTAGON

In addition to those within the Department, Mr. Hilsman has had possibly more difficulties with the Pentagon and the White House—especially with the office of McGeorge Bundy, the President's Special Assistant for National Security Affairs.

The Hilsman departure and the elevation of Mr. Sullivan appear to be a major move to have the State Department play a bigger role in Viet Nam.

For a long time, the Pentagon has called the tune. In Saigon there long has been friction between the civilian Americans in the embassy, the USIA and CIA on one side, and the military men on the other. At the end of last year U. S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge and Gen. Paul Harkins were not on speaking terms.

'McNAMARA'S!'

Only last month an official asked this reporter: "Whose war do you think this is?" And

then he answered his own question: "McNamara's!" Defense Secretary Robert McNamara has carried the major part of the load.

Altho Mr. Hilsman's relations within the State Department were far from perfectly smooth, it was understood his major opponents were in the Defense Department—especially in the Defense's own "Little State Department" which is headed by William Bundy, McGeorge Bundy's brother.

William Bundy will be the Defense representative on Mr. Sullivan's high-level committee of all agencies involved in Viet Nam.